

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets 1-4 of drawings include changes to FIGS. 1-3A, 3B, 4A, and 4C-6. The attached sheets 1-4, which include FIGS. 1-6, replace the original sheets 1-4 including FIGS. 1-6. In FIG. 1, element numbers 23 and 32 are added. In FIG. 2, element numbers 23 and 32 are added. In FIG. 3A, dashed lines, which illustrate absorbent pad 46, are added. In FIG. 3B, the lead line for element number 48 is corrected, element number 45 is added, element number 47 is added, and the lead line for element number 44 is corrected. In FIG. 4A, element numbers 32 and 62 are added and element number 32 is corrected. In FIG. 4C, element numbers 23, 24, and 32 are added. In FIG. 5, diameter D is added. In FIG. 6, diameters d and D are added, element 48 is added, element 40 is added, and the lead line of element 64 is corrected.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets 1-4
 Annotated Sheets 1-4 Showing Changes

REMARKS

A. Restriction of Claims

In the present Office Action, the Examiner finalized a restriction of the claims to Group I, which includes claims 1-5 and Group II, which includes claim 6. Accordingly, by the amendments made above, Applicant cancels claim 6.

B. Objection to Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for claimed subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the specification does not support the claim limitation that the chemically inert material is polyvinylchloride. By the amendments made above to paragraph 17 of the specification, this objection is believed to be overcome.

C. Typographical Errors in Specification

Multiple typographical errors and omissions were made in the specification. By the amendments made above, these errors and omissions have been corrected. None of the amendments include new matter and are fully supported by the specification or drawings as originally submitted.

D. Errors and Clarifications in Drawings

Multiple typographical errors and omissions were made in the drawings. By the amendments made in the replacement sheets submitted herewith, these errors and omissions have been corrected and the drawings have been clarified. To facilitate examination, annotated drawings showing the amendments have also been submitted. None of the amendments include new matter and are fully supported by the specification or drawings as originally submitted.

E. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,537,706, issued to Baker ("Baker"), rejected claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as

anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP2002177895, issued to Masahiko ("Masahiko"), rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,343,399, issued to Pankow ("Pankow"), rejected claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,175,983, issued to Hirose et al. ("Hirose"), rejected claims 1, 3, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0217423, issued to Larsen ("Larsen"), and rejected claims 1, 3, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,199,238, issued to Huang ("Huang").

As currently amended, independent claim 1 is limited to *a cleaning cartridge that is configured such that the upper surface of the cleaning cartridge and the top surface of the absorbent pad are at a predetermined distance to one another*. The predetermined distance defines a depth that the probe pins penetrate the absorbent pad when a surface of the probe head assembly is brought into contact with the upper surface of the cleaning cartridge. Support for the amendments to claim 1 is found in paragraph 15 as originally submitted and as amended. None of the cited references teach or suggest such a limitation. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. For at least the same reasons, the balance of the claims, which depend from claim 1, are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

F. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over any of the Baker, Masahiko, Pankow, Hirose, Larsen, Huang references in view of an obvious design choice to use polyvinylchloride.

Claim 1 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. For at least the same reasons, claim 4, which depends from claim 1, is also believed to be in condition for allowance.

B. Summary

In the present Office Action, claims 1-5 were examined. Claims 1-5 are rejected. Claims 1-3 are amended, claim 6 is canceled, and new claims 7-9 are added. Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are presented for consideration.

Based on the remarks above, Applicants submit that none of the references, alone or in combination, anticipates or makes obvious the invention as presently claimed and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of the application and the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance at the earliest possible date.


If the Examiner has any questions or believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Please apply any credits or charge any deficiencies to our Deposit Account No. 23-1665.

Respectfully submitted,
William H. Fulton, et al.

Date: May 15, 2006

Reg. No. 42,565



Signature of Attorney
Anthony P. Gangemi
Wiggin and Dana LLP
One Century Tower
New Haven, CT 06508-1832
Telephone: (203) 498-4395
Facsimile: (203) 782-2889

1/4

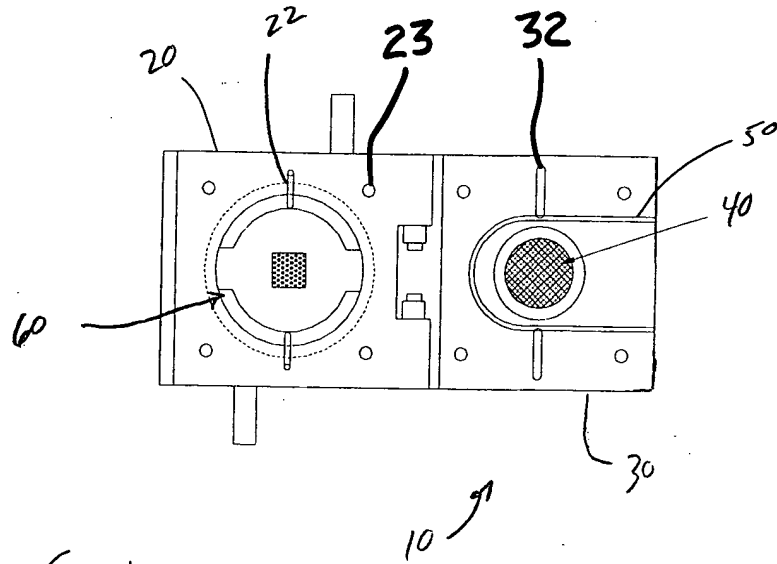


Fig. 1

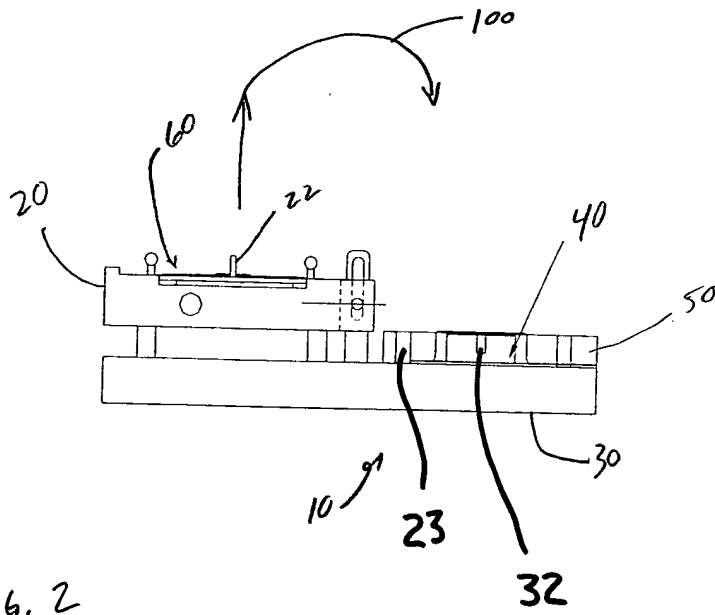


Fig. 2

2/4

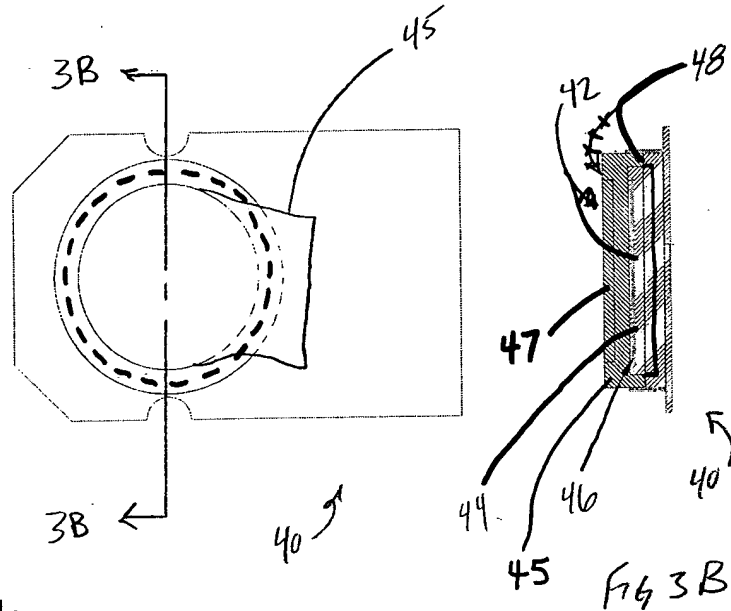


Fig. 3A

Fig. 3B

3/4

